

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.131**

2 (By Delegate Talbott)

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7 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study
8 captive cervid farming as an agricultural enterprise and the
9 impact of transferring regulatory authority of captive cervids
10 from the Division of Natural Resources to the Department of
11 Agriculture to assess the potential environmental, wildlife
12 and fiscal impact to the state.

13 WHEREAS, Legislation passed the Senate that would regulate
14 captive cervid farming as an agricultural enterprise in the state
15 and transfer regulatory authority of captive cervids from the
16 Division of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture; and

17 WHEREAS, Captive cervid farming could be an economic benefit
18 to the state, could preserve family farming opportunities, could
19 encourage agricultural uses of the natural topography of the
20 state's rural lands and could provide job creation and job
21 retention in rural areas; and

22 WHEREAS, Several issues regarding the establishment of captive
23 cervid farms as an agriculture enterprise have not been fully
24 examined by the Legislature, including the environmental impact,
25 the regulation of the sale of white-tailed deer meat, the impact to

1 our state's white-tailed deer population and the fiscal impact or
2 benefit to the state; and

3 WHEREAS, The potential economic benefit of allowing and
4 regulating captive cervid farming must be carefully weighed with
5 safety, wildlife and potential environmental impacts of captive
6 cervid farming; and therefore be it

7 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

8 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
9 requested to conduct a study on establishing captive cervid farming
10 as an agricultural enterprise and the impact of transferring
11 regulatory authority of captive cervids from the Division of
12 Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture to assess the
13 potential environmental, wildlife and fiscal impact to the state;
14 and, be it

15 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and
16 Finance report to the Legislature, on the first day of the regular
17 session, 2012 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations
18 together with drafts of any legislation to effectuate its
19 recommendations; and, be it

20 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this
21 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be
22 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on
23 Government and Finance.